

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated August 13, 2003 in which the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), rejected claims 2, 7, 50 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), rejected claims 3-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103, stated that claims 1, 16-20, 23, 24, 41-47 and 49 are allowed and objected to claims 9-11, 13-15 and 29-38 is being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As indicated above, claims 2-5, 7-8, 39 and 50-51 are being canceled without prejudice and objected to claims 9-11, 13-15 and 29-38 are being rewritten into independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 9-11, 13-20, 23-24, 29-38, 41-47 and 49 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, since withdrawn claims 25 and 26 depend from allowable claims, it is respectfully submitted that these claims should no longer be withdrawn.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enters this amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: November 10, 2003

By: 

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